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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fourth year

Letter dated 26 March 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the communiqué issued on 25 March 1999 by the countries members of the Permanent Mechanism for Consultation and Concerted Political Action in Latin America (Rio Group) concerning the situation in Kosovo (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Manuel TELLO
Permanent Representative of
Mexico to the United Nations

Annex

Communiqué issued on 25 March 1999 by the Rio Group

The countries members of the Rio Group express their anxiety about the commencement of air strikes by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization against Serbian military targets and, in particular, their concern that no peaceful means of solving, in conformity with international law, the existing dispute among the various parties to the conflict in Kosovo has been found.

The Rio Group therefore calls on all parties to resume, as soon as possible, talks with a view to achieving a comprehensive and final settlement with a view to re-establishing a stable and lasting peace based on respect for the human rights of all ethnic groups and minorities in the region, and on the territorial integrity of States.

The Rio Group also regrets the recourse to the use of force in the Balkan region in contravention of the provisions of Article 53, paragraph 1, and Article 54 of the Charter of the United Nations, which state "... no enforcement action shall be taken under regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorization of the Security Council" and "the Security Council shall at all times be kept fully informed of activities undertaken or in contemplation under regional arrangements or by regional agencies for the maintenance of international peace and security".